



**HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

FAMILY GUIDE TO Student Success

6TH GRADE

This guide provides an overview of what your student will learn in their core content classes throughout the year. Our goal is to partner together to empower families to feel equipped to support your student's academic journey.

WHY ARE ACADEMIC STANDARDS IMPORTANT?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students are prepared for success in college and the workforce. They help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents, and teachers; build your child's knowledge and skills; and help set high goals for all students.

Of course, high standards are not only the thing needed for our children's success. But standards provide an important first step to instruct learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals help families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. Standards help parents and teachers know when students need extra assistance or when they need to be challenged even more. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations and supporting your child in meeting them. If your child needs a little extra help or wants to learn more about a subject, work with his or her teacher to identify opportunities for instructional support, to get involved in extra curriculums, or to find other resources.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- An overview of 6th grade content
- Ideas for activities to help your child at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her progress.

English Language Arts

WHAT'S NEW IN 6th GRADE ELA

In grades K-5, the standards signal the importance of laying a solid foundation for reading and writing. The middle grades, 6-8, solidify the foundation while increasing the complexity of text selection and tasks.

Writing becomes more sophisticated and moves away from opinions to evidence based, using multiple sources. Overall, students are expected to demonstrate greater independence and critical thinking.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HCS's high quality instructional material for ELA in grades 9-12 is MyPerspectives by SAVVAS. Throughout the year, students read a variety of genres, write for different purposes, participate in collaborative discussions, and develop vocabulary skills.

The six units encourage students to think critically about themselves, others, and the world around them.

Childhood:

What are some of the challenges & triumphs of growing up?

Animal Allies:

How can people and animals relate to each other?

Modern Technology:

How is modern technology helpful and harmful to society?

Imagination:

Where can imagination lead?

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT

Discussion Prompts:

- What are you reading in ELA right now? What is the text mostly about?
- What is one idea or message the author wants readers to understand?
- What evidence from the text supports your thinking?
- Was there a character, event, or idea that surprised you? Why?

Take Action:

- Read with your child! Encourage daily reading of books, articles, magazines, or other texts of interest.
- Ask your child to explain their thinking rather than only summarize what they read.
- Discuss current events and connect them to topics being studied in class.
- Visit your local library

Math

WHAT'S NEW IN 6th GRADE MATH

In 5th grade, students build foundational math skills by working with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, volume, and problem-solving strategies.

In 6th grade, students transition to more abstract concepts such as ratios, rates, rational numbers, expressions, equations, and statistics. Students are expected to explain their mathematical thinking, apply strategies to real-world situations, and understand why mathematical processes work rather than simply follow procedures. These skills help prepare students for middle school math courses, including pre-algebra concepts and more independent problem-solving.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HCS's high quality instructional material for math in grades K-8 is HMH Into Math. Throughout the year, students will be encouraged to persevere through challenging problems, choose effective strategies, collaborate with classmates, and explain not only how they solved a problem but also why their solution makes sense.

Modules Include:

- Integer Concepts
- Rational Number Concepts
- Fraction Division
- Fluency with Multi-Digit Operations
- Ratios and Rates
- Apply Ratios and Rates to Measurement
- Understand and Apply Percent
- Numerical and Algebraic Expressions
- Solve Problems Using Equations and Inequalities
- Real-World Relationships Between Variables

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT

Discussion Prompts:

- Did you solve a problem in more than one way? Which strategy was most efficient and why?
- What is a math skill that has challenged you? What strategies are helping you improve?
- What is a math concept you understand well right now? How do you know?

Take Action:

- Talk about math with your child! Encourage your child to explain how they solved a problem, what strategy they used, and why their answer makes sense.
- Connect math to every day life (shopping, cooking, traveling, sports, home projects)
- Play games that involve logic, strategy, patterns, or mental math.

Science

WHAT'S NEW IN 6th GRADE SCIENCE

In 5th grade, students focus on foundational concepts such as matter and its properties, energy, Earth's systems, and patterns in space while developing skills in observation, measurement, and scientific investigation.

In 6th grade, students move from identifying scientific concepts to explaining how and why phenomena occur by analyzing data, creating models, conducting investigations, and using evidence to support scientific explanations. Sixth grade science places a greater emphasis on applying science concepts to real-world problems and communicating scientific reasoning.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HCS's high quality instructional material for science in grades 6-8 is McGraw Hill. Throughout the year, students will begin learning science through phenomena—real-world events or observations that inspire questions and investigations. Students will work to explain how and why things happen by using evidence, scientific models, and their understanding of key science concepts.

Modules Include:

- Energy
- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Dynamic Ecosystems
- Biodiversity in Ecosystems
- Earth's Water Cycle
- Weather and Climate
- Human Impact on the Environment

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT

Discussion Prompts:

- What is one new idea you learned in science this week?
- What tools, data, or resources helped you answer your questions?
- How does this science concept connect to something you see in everyday life?
- How did the evidence help you develop or change your explanation?

Take Action:

- Ask questions about the world around you. Ask “why” and “how” questions about everyday events.
- Discuss real-world examples such as weather patterns, changes in the environment, energy use at home, cooking, technology, and local ecosystems.
- Explore museums, nature centers, parks, zoos, aquariums, or community events

Social Studies

WHAT'S NEW IN 6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In 5th grade, students study national and state history from post-Reconstruction industrialization through the Civil Rights Movement.

In 6th grade, students explore the foundations of early human civilization and the development of civilizations through the fall of the Roman Empire. This transition also expands students' geographic focus from local/regional maps to global physical geography including ancient trade routes.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HCS's high quality instructional material for social studies in grades 6-8 includes lessons that engage students in inquiry-based social studies practices. They will analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources using historical questions and synthesize their findings through interactive discourse and writing. They will actively participate in independent and collaborative, hands-on and digital learning experiences, such as sorting activities (e.g., Paleolithic vs. Neolithic features), interactive timeline exercises, close-reading protocols, and projects.

Modules Include:

- Foundations of Human Civilization
- Ancient Mesopotamia
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Israel
- Ancient India
- Ancient China
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT

Discussion Prompts:

- What is one new idea you learned about this society or historical era this week?
- What historical tools, primary sources, maps, or artifacts helped you answer your questions?
- How does this social studies concept connect to how we live, organize our communities, or use technology today?
- How did the historical or archaeological evidence help you develop or change your explanation of the past?

Take Action:

- Ask questions about how communities, governments, and history shape our world.
- Discuss real-world examples of geography, civics, and culture.
- Ask for evidence that supports their developing ideas and beliefs.
- Explore historic sites, museums, libraries, and civic spaces.

PARTNERING FOR 6th Grade Success



KEYS TO THE JOURNEY

Students who end 6th grade "On-Track" are nearly four times more likely to graduate from high school.

Active family support in 6th grade is proven to help students build stronger, more positive peer relationships as they transition through middle school.

A 6th grader's emotional brain develops faster than their logical brain, making your steady guidance and support essential.

ATTENDANCE

THE FOUNDATION

Middle schoolers need at least 90% attendance (missing fewer than 9 days of school a year) to stay on track. Drops in attendance are the #1 cause of dropping grades.

BEHAVIOR

THE MINDSET

When students feel they belong and practice self-advocacy, they stay motivated and build the resilience needed for harder classes.

GRADES

AIMING FOR Bs OR BETTER

A student's Middle School GPA is one of the best predictors of future college success. Focus on your student's effort and check the Powerschool together weekly.